

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 08889 290946Z
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 /019 W
-----127297 300045Z /63

R 282033Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408
INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRASILIA 8889

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BGEN, BR, PA
SUBJECT: STATUS OF ITAIPU PROJECT

1. IN MID-OCTOBER, WESTINGHOUSE POWER SYSTEMS VICE
PRESIDENT ROBERT HEINEMANN DISCUSSED, INTER ALIA, THE
STATUS OF THE ITAIPU PROJECT WITH AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
E/C OFFICERS. RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THIS CONVERSATION
ARE REPEATED BELOW FOR AMEMBASSY ASUNCION.

2. HE SAID QUESTION OF PARAGUAYAN CYCLE CHANGE
WAS STILL EMBROILED IN HUGE GEOPOLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS AND
THE EVENTUAL OUTCOME WAS ANYTHING BUT CLEAR. CONTRARY TO
WHAT GE REP TOLD US SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (SEE RIO 1750),
HEINEMANN SAID DIRECT COSTS OF GENERATOR-TURBINES EQUIPPED
FOR BOTH CYCLAGES WERE RELATIVELY SMALL. SWITCHGEAR AND
OTHER TRANSMISSION EQUIPMENT WOULD BE SOMEWHAT MORE EXPENSIVE
WITH BOTH 50 AND 60-CYCLE CAPABILITY, BUT EVEN SUCH COSTS
WOULD BE NIGGLING IN THE OVERALL BILL FOR THE ITAIPU
COMPLEX. HE CLAIMED WESTINGHOUSE TECHNOLOGY IN VARIABLE-
CYCLE SWITCHGEAR WAS SUPERIOR, AND THAT THEY WOULD
POSSIBLY BE IN MORE-FAVORABLE POSITION SHOULD THE PARA-
GUAYANS NOT ABANDON 50 CYCLES. NONETHELESS, HE FELT IT WAS
FAR MORE LOGICAL TO CONVERT PARAGUAY TO 60 CYCLES AT THIS
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TIME, AND THAT BRAZILIANS HAD MADE IT VERY ATTRACTIVE FOR
GOP TO MAKE CHANGEOVER. ALSO DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO EARLIER
GE POSITION, HEINEMANN SAID WESTINGHOUSE WAS AVOIDING
ANY HINT TO BRAZILIANS OR PARAGUAYANS THAT WESTINGHOUSE
WAS INTERESTED IN CYCLAGE QUESTION. HE SAID THAT DEBERNARDI
WAS BOTH HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND INCREDIBLY WELL-INFORMED ABOUT
COMPANIES' ACTIVITIES, AND THAT "KEEPING THEIR HEADS DOWN"

WAS ONLY POSSIBLE POSTURE ON THIS QUESTION.

CRIMMINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 28-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: BEXP, BGEN, BR, PA
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